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(54) **AUTOMATED MACHINE FOR SLITTING AND WEDGE CUTTING WHOLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An automated food processing machine receives a whole fruit or vegetable and presses it through a blade set to form slices or wedges. The machine includes a controller coupled to various components including linear motion actuators, a user interface, and sensors. One motion actuator coupled to a slitting blade. Another motion actuator is coupled to a ram. In response to an input the controller activates the motion actuators in a sequence including (1) linear motion of the slitting blade to form a slit in the whole fruit or vegetable and (2) linear motion of the ram to press the whole fruit or vegetable through a blade set to form the slices or wedges.

22 Claims, 19 Drawing Sheets